

and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Shirley Ragsdale is a talented journalist, an advocate of children's rights, and a dedicated citizen of South Dakota. This honorable award is a reflection of her extraordinary talent, creativity, and ability to convey depth and originality supported by thorough research and consistent documentation. Her unrelenting and well-reasoned editorials pressed for changes in the unacceptable practices, as indicated by substantiated reports of abuse, occurring within the South Dakota juvenile correction system.

Shirley Ragsdale truly deserves this prestigious award. It is an honor for me to share her impressive achievements with my colleagues and to commend her on her journalistic success.●

OLYMPIC SWIMMER JENNY THOMPSON

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our nation's finest Olympians, Jenny Thompson. This week, Jenny set herself apart from the rest of the world. With 10 Olympic medals, 8 of which are gold, Jenny has become the most decorated Olympic female swimmer of all time. As an American, I am very proud of our U.S. Olympic athletes, but I am especially proud of Jenny Thompson, from my home state of New Hampshire.

Jenny first appeared on swimming's national stage in the mid-1980's when she began swimming for the Seacoast Swimming Association in Dover, New Hampshire for coach Mike Parratto. At the age of 15, Jenny just missed making the 1988 U.S. Olympic Swim Team, but her success as a young athlete drew the attention of college swimming programs from around the country. Jenny began attending Stanford University in 1991, and in 1992, she became the first woman in 61 years to set a world record in the 100 meter freestyle event. She followed up on her new world record by leading Stanford to a 27-0 dual-meet record, four PAC-10 titles and four consecutive NCAA Championships. Through her leadership and her firm sense of teamwork, Jenny Thompson was elevated to team captain and served as a mentor for Stanford's more recent arrivals to the natatorium.

In addition to Jenny's team accomplishments, she managed to swim her way to 19 NCAA titles, the most in women's collegiate swimming history. Having also captured 23 U.S. national titles, Jenny is the most successful active swimmer in the United States.

When Jenny arrived in Sydney, Australia, she did so with five gold medals and one silver medal. She has now added to her Olympic success by again leading the U.S. women's relay team to gold in the 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay, setting another new world

record, and the 4 x 100 meter medley relay. Additionally, Jenny continued to show her competitive edge as an individual by medaling in the 100 meter freestyle, winning the bronze.

Jenny Thompson's performance at the 2000 Sydney Olympics has made her the most decorated female Olympian in the United States and the most successful female Olympic swimmer in history. Aside from her achievements at the Olympics and Stanford University, Jenny has won numerous World Championships and accumulated countless awards and honors as an athlete. She has always displayed team spirit and professionalism in and around the pool, showing that character is one of her finest assets. Her contribution to the sport of swimming is unmatched and has left a lasting impression in the minds and hearts of all who have watched her represent the United States throughout the years. Jenny Thompson has inspired a generation of young swimmers to dream and achieve their goals, to think positively and to work hard.

Jenny Thompson will enter Columbia University Medical School next fall, where I know she will be successful. Her drive and desire will surely allow her to achieve her goals as she makes her way into a different stage of her life. I am confident that Jenny will continue to be a role model for all, and I hope that she knows we are proud of her. New Hampshire is proud of her, our nation is proud of her, and we wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.●

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA'S HOUSE OF HEROES PROGRAM

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, there is a great outpouring of human generosity taking place in our great country that I must speak about here today. I was honored to be with my friends and colleagues, including the late Senator Coverdell, Representatives MAC COLLINS and SANFORD BISHOP, Columbus Mayor Bobby Peters, Col. Frank Helmick, along with Wayne Anthony of Hands On Columbus and many, many other volunteers, as we embarked on the historic event of initiating the House of Heroes program. This program should serve as a model to communities all across the country to provide needed assistance and support for aging veterans who bravely served their country and their families.

It is often said that "Poor is the nation who has no heroes. Poorer still is the nation which has them but forgets them." The House of Heroes project makes sure we don't forget this adage by having volunteers take up shovels, paint brushes and brooms to show not only our veterans, but also their families, that they are not forgotten. This past May at the home of Betty Cook of Columbus, in my state of Georgia, the

House of Heroes was inaugurated by federal, military, and local officials to help serve as a reminder to younger generations of Americans how our nation's older men and woman veterans have proudly served and sacrificed for their country to help preserve our freedom. The inauguration ceremony reminded us all that honor, valor, and sacrifice come not only from service members, but from their spouses and family as well. While Mrs. Cook's husband served his country as a medic in World War II, she fought the war at home. She supported their family on her own, while encouraging her husband to press on in battle overseas. Hundreds of thousands of G.I.'s fought for their families, sustained by the love they were getting from home. Victory was never won alone.

The House of Heroes program relies on people who volunteer their services to repair and improve the home of a veteran and/or their spouse as an act of appreciation from the Congress of the United States and people of this nation. I am especially proud of those who contributed their time, effort and energy to help bring this project to fruition. It was especially uplifting to have witnessed the hard work that was put into the project. I would like to express my gratitude to each and every volunteer who made this worthy event the great success that it was.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 395 that expresses the sense of the Congress that the House of Heroes project in Columbus, Georgia, should serve as a model for public support for the Nation's veterans and strongly agree with everything this resolution represents. I especially thank Representative MAC COLLINS for introducing this worthy legislation.

Today, Columbus, Georgia, remains home to thousands of service members and their families stationed at Ft. Benning and Columbus has always been a critical area for our nation's defenses, both past and present. The initiation of the House of Heroes program proves that from beginning to end, this remarkable city is home to some remarkable people. This event is only the beginning for the House of Heroes program as communities across the nation will begin to undertake their own House of Heroes programs modeled after the great program that the fine people of Columbus started.●

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM JAMES BUSHAW

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Captain William James Bushaw, who is retiring from the United States Navy after nearly 30 years of service. Captain Bushaw leaves behind a legacy of versatility and consistency, as he has consistently been successful in whatever area he has been asked to perform.